

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 68

Wednesday 11th November 2020

‘Virtually Church but with some way to go...’

Welcome

This midweek edition of Cutting Edge Camelot comes to you on 11th November, the anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War in 1918. George reflects below on the meaning of this event in the light of the world in which we live today.

Also included in this edition are some information on videos shared through Vimeo and the possibility of forming small groups via Zoom (or a similar video conferencing device).

Scripture Verse

Micah 6:8

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Reflection

In the years that followed the First World War, the whole country came to a stop at 11 o'clock on 11th November, Armistice Day, to observe a two minute silence in memory of those from this country and the Commonwealth who had died in the war.

It must have been a poignant occasion for the many who had lost a dearly loved son or husband, father or brother; or perhaps a childhood friend who had grown up with them and gone with them to the same village school; or someone, often many more than one, who had served alongside them in the same battalion or ship's company.

The mood of the country was caught by a verse from a poem written by Laurence Binyon in 1914 when the first news of heavy casualties came in.

“They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.”

It really is “grow not old”. The inversion speaks of a life after death in which we will continue to grow, not old with our physical and mental faculties slowly failing, but in an ever-increasing Christ-likeness.

It was to have been the Great War to end all wars; and Lloyd George spoke of making Britain a “land fit for heroes”. It didn't work out like that. The Twenties and Thirties brought high unemployment, the Jarrow Marchers, the General Strike, the 1929 Stock Market Crash, economic depression. In 1939 war with Germany was resumed.

The mood of the country in 1945 was different, partly because the Second World War had brought so much suffering and loss of life to the civilian population, so much destruction to towns and cities. There was the same determination that there should be no more wars. There was also a wish that the war, with all its suffering, should lead to a fairer, more equal, more caring society that would look after the sick, the elderly, and those unable to support themselves. Something of this is hinted at in words that appear on the memorial to the 2nd Division at Kohima -

“When you go home, tell them of us and say,
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.”

It is as though those whose names appear on that War Memorial are saying to us, “We have died to secure your freedom. Use it to make our country one that is worth our having died for it.”

Today is a day for remembering those who fought and died to preserve our freedom. We honour their sense of duty, their discipline, their self-sacrifice. They would want us to remember, too, those who didn't die, but nevertheless laid down part of their lives in the same cause. Some returned badly injured in body or mind. Others returned unscathed. All had given up months and years of their life to be separated from those they loved, unable to pursue peacetime careers, living often in discomfort, sometimes in danger.

Today is a day for remembering with sorrow the terrible suffering that wars have caused to so many innocent people, the lives lost, the homes destroyed, the cruelties inflicted. It is a day for reflecting on the breakdown in human relationships that leads to war, a day for looking back and asking ourselves where things went wrong, what we could have done differently, what lessons we can learn to help us avoid future wars.

Today is a day for reflecting on our response to the words on the memorial at Kohima. A lasting peace and a just and caring society are part of what we pray for with the words “Thy Kingdom come.” By the grace of God, much has been achieved in the 75 years since 1945. Yet today our world is full of strife and in our country, one of the richest, there are people relying on food banks to feed them.

We still have a long way to go, and we won't get there by our own unaided efforts. As a nation, we have to learn from the prophet Micah to “walk humbly with our God”, allowing him to guide and inform our thoughts and

ways, and relying on him for the strength to do what needs to be done. Only then will we achieve a society at peace with itself and with others and worthy of those who died to preserve our freedom.

George

Points for Prayers

- For ways in which we will mark Armistice Day today
- Thanksgiving for the sacrifices made by so many during the Second World War and other conflicts
- For all those serving in the armed forces, their families and friends
- For peacemakers and peacekeepers
- Thanksgiving for care, skill and courage of NHS workers and those in care homes
- Those suffering from coronavirus in hospitals, care homes and at home
- Need for further largescale testing
- Give thanks for progress on the development of a vaccine
- Minimising the second wave of coronavirus through the new lockdown
- Communications within the Camelot Group and its churches during the new lockdown (please see notices below)
- Our Bishops (please see notice below)
- For North Cadbury Church Primary School and Marchant Holliday school in our benefice remembering also Horsington school as they proceed with their new school year
- Prayers for those affected economically by the lockdown, for businesses and those who have become unemployed

- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

Guidance on new lockdown

The basic guidance is contained on the government website which states that places of worship must close during the new lockdown 'apart from for the purposes of independent prayer, for funerals or funeral commemorative events, to broadcast an act of worship, to provide essential voluntary services or urgent public support services, for registered childcare, and to host permitted gatherings.'

Videos on Vimeo

A link was sent about the upload of the North Cadbury Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial. During lockdown we are planning to video short services at various churches in the Camelot Group and to share the link to the Vimeo upload.

Would you like to facilitate a small Zoom group?

As I mentioned in my Vimeo presentation, I believe that there is a role for Zoom (or a similar programme like Microsoft Teams or Google Meet) to play in enabling small groups of people to connect with one another online.

I would very much like to hear from anyone who would be willing to facilitate such a small group. The simplest way of getting in touch with me is by email, tristramraesmith@gmail.com.

I think that the ideal size of such a group would be say 5 to 6. It can meet as frequently or infrequently as the group decides, maybe once a week to start off with? The free version of Zoom has a time limit of 40 minutes but

other than that meetings can be as long or as short as the group decides. Perhaps 20 to 30 minutes might be appropriate as a starting point?

The main role of a facilitator is to enable each person in the small group to contribute to a group discussion if they so wish. Previous experience of using Zoom (or a similar programme like Microsoft Teams or Google Meet) would be useful but not essential.

The main purpose of such a small group is to provide an opportunity for fellowship and to enable participants to catch up with one another.

Material for reflection and discussion can be provided through articles in Cutting Edge Camelot, the content of Vimeo videos or other sources.

Prayer can take place in whatever form (set or free) is most appropriate given the make up of the participants.

It may be that you already run or belong to such a small group in which case I simply wish to encourage you in this venture.

If you would like to facilitate a new small group please let me know. You are free to focus the group in whatever way suits your own facilitating skills and experience. If you are happy for your name and email address to appear in Cutting Edge Camelot we can see whether there are other people who might wish to join your group.

Tristram

An inclusive Communion celebrated on behalf of the benefice

During the second lockdown as in the first Ron and Pam will be celebrating Communion regularly in their home each Sunday at 10.00 am. Please be aware of this because even though no-one can join them they are praying for us all and hope that you will feel included in this act of Communion.

Private prayer on Armistice Day

St Michael's North Cadbury will be open for private prayer this afternoon as usual from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm.

St Thomas a Becket South Cadbury will be open for private prayer this morning, 10.45 am to 11.15 am.

St Peter and St Paul Maperton will be open for private prayer today.

The Parish Office

The Parish Office is closed although Rob does come in regularly. In his absence please contact Rob via email (office@camelotparishes.org.uk) or on 01749 850934.

Update on Bishop Peter

Bishop Peter thanks everyone for all the cards and other expressions of support which he has received. A card was sent to him on behalf of the Camelot Parishes as a whole. He says that he has been lifted on 'eagle's wings' through the love and prayers of others and he thinks that the treatment for leukaemia is going well. He is grateful that potential donors for a bone marrow transplant have been identified and he is preparing for such a transplant later this year. Please continue to pray for him and his family in this challenging time. Please pray also for Bishop Ruth and the rest of the Bishop's Staff as they take on the oversight of the diocese in his absence.

Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family

*We pray that 'we might live in love,
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us'*

(Ephesians 5:2)